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ABSTRACT

Mentorships, the art of a creatively productive person teaching, counseling, and inspiring a student with similar interests, can be the result of circumstance or they can be the result of mentorship programs engineered in the academic world. Data collected from over 25 different academic models of mentorship have been distilled into 7 key steps to implement a successful mentorship program for students. Special emphasis has been placed on creative approaches to solving the many predictable problems that generally occur in mentorship programs. The seven steps are: (1) agreeing on definitions; (2) applying persuasion to engage support for the program; (3) cultivating creative problem solving; (4) designing the best possible program model; (5) searching systematically for mentors; (6) applying the necessary encouragement for program growth; and (7) advertising the program as a product. Four reproducible forms are presented for use in mentorship programs. The first form is "The Community Connector," a form on which prospective mentors can enter their interests and information about their availability. The second form is "The Mentor Contract," through which the mentor agrees to certain responsibilities and describes a plan for the mentoring program. The contract includes evaluation forms. The "Project Checklist" outlines steps to take in the mentorship program. The final form is an evaluation of the mentorship placement. Each form is cross referenced to part of the mentorship guide. (Contains 38 references.) (SLD)

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